

“GED® Testing in Correctional Center” Hot Topics Webinar

Summary of Questions and Answers

Who is responsible for setting up GED® testing in the corrections facility?

The jailer makes the decision about the programs offered at the facility. The Department of Corrections encourages those jails that also serve state inmates to offer GED® instruction and testing.

Who should my detention center administrator contact to help him set up the GED® Program?

You can provide the jail staff with the handouts provided with this presentation. This will direct the jail to contact our office and complete the online application at Pearson.

Does the GED Ready™ test need Internet?

GED Ready™ is an online test. For those facilities that do not offer Internet access, GED Ready™ can be delivered through the same secure system used to deliver the GED® test. This secure system does not require Internet access for test-taker computers.

Are local jails obligated to provide GED® testing?

The Department of Corrections encourages those jails that also serve state inmates to offer GED® instruction and testing.

Can the Ready™ test be administered over both Internet Explorer and Mozilla Firefox? I know we are currently advised to avoid using Explorer.

Minimum internet browser versions required for GED Ready™ are Internet Explorer 8.x, Firefox 6.x, Safari 5.x or Chrome 12.x.

My administrator said he didn't receive any information because he is a regional and not a county jail.

All Kentucky jailers received information about the changes in test delivery for the 2014 GED® test. Please provide your jail administrator with the handouts provided with the presentation.

Our inmates went to the testing center instead of the testing center going to the detention center -- will that still be an option?

The option of transporting inmates to a public test center was not a good one for the paper test and is even more problematic for the computer test. Many testing centers are offering a variety of professional certifications and academic testing at the same time the GED® test is offered and shackled inmates could not be admitted at these centers. A number of college campuses do not allow inmates to come to their center for this purpose.

I have the same comment as above -- ours is a regional jail and not a county jail. Who has the ultimate responsibility for ensuring that inmates have GED® instructional and testing access -- the correction center or the local adult education county program?

The jailer makes the decision about the programs offered at the facility.

Is the correction center paying for all testing modules for inmates?

Jailers have usually used canteen funds to pay GED® test fees. The Kentucky Department of Corrections considers this is an appropriate use of those funds.

Will we know when an inmate passes the GED® so that our center gets credit or should that be a concern?

GED® test results for your students should appear in KAERS.

Is the jail responsible for paying for the GED Ready™ tests as well?

That would depend on the relationship the adult education program has for offering instruction inside the jail facility. GED Ready™ is tied to the instructional materials and the vouchers are purchased through a publisher of GED® curriculum.

Could you repeat about the vouchers again please?

KYAE purchased GED Ready™ vouchers and distributed them at no charge to local programs. This was to make sure local programs could begin offering GED Ready™ and gain experience to budget for GED Ready™ in the upcoming fiscal year. Vouchers for GED Ready™ can be purchased through a publisher.

Vouchers for the GED® test are purchased through the Pearson Voucher store. Information about this is available in the presentation "Paying for the GED® test with vouchers" located here:

<http://kyae.ky.gov/educators/GEDhottopics.htm>.

Do computers used by the administrator and students need to be hard wired or can they be wireless?

The computers have to be networked. Laptop computers can be used and stored away except for test day.

Any suggestions on how to encourage local detention?

Make sure the instructor at the jail has the facts. Please give them the handouts provided with the presentation to share with administrators at the jail. Presentation is located here:

<http://kyae.ky.gov/educators/GEDhottopics.htm>.

Any suggestions with regard to a correction center that appears to be 'dragging their feet' with regard to computer setup, etc.?

See if you can collaborate with the jailer on the purchase of computers. Move instruction to computers. If you purchase computers for instruction, make sure they meet the Pearson requirements. You could allow those same computers to be used for testing. If space is an issue at the jail, suggest the use of

laptop computers which can be stored away when not used for instruction or testing. Please make sure the administrator checks with Pearson on the requirements for laptops before any equipment purchases are made.

What are the savings to corrections if they give the test in-house rather than an outside test administrator?

There is a reduced test fee cost for jails that become a testing center.

\$80 vs. \$120 for full test

\$20 vs. \$30 for each of four modules

Free re-takes for up to two additional attempts per module (while GEDTS offers discounted retakes).

No add on fees such as administrative fees for having the test brought to the facility or transportation expenses for taking inmates to another facility.

Is the discounts offered to the jails also offered to the state prisons?

The state prisons are all Pearson VUE testing centers and have the discounted test fees.

We've been waiting to hear from DOC about TABE requirements in order to GED Ready™ test and then GED® test. Have you gotten any word?

The TABE is not very predictive of success on the GED® test. The GED Ready™ test is highly predictive of success on the GED® test.

Are test-takers in the jails taking a live GED® test?

Yes, the 2014 GED® test has already been administered in jails and there have been inmates that have passed the test.

Could you let us know some of these jails so we can give that information to our jailer?

Because some jails are being served as mobile sites of public centers, I can't provide a complete list.

Here are some of the jails that are active as of 5/2/2014: Butler, Barren, Franklin, Hardin, Warren, and Louisville Metro Corrections. Here are some of the jails in the process of becoming testing centers: Lincoln, Grayson, Marion, Fayette, Marshall, Daviess, Boyle, Woodford, Todd, Logan, Campbell, Bullitt, Taylor, and Carroll. Please note that testing centers are being added weekly so you will need to check often for updates.